

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: Miguel ESTEVEZ et al.

Filed: Filed Concurrently Herewith

Title of Invention: METHOD OF CODING ARTEFACTS REDUCTION

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**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Box Patent Application (35 U.S.C. 111)  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Before the issuance of the first Office Action, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend claims 5, 6, 9, 10 and 13-16 by rewriting the same as follows:

5. (Amended) Method according to claim 2, **characterized in that** said deblocking filtering is performed separately for horizontal and vertical borders of neighbouring blocks.